

## Budget Activity 5: State Commission Administrative Grants

**Table 31: Summary of budget estimates for the State Commission Administrative Grants**  
(dollars in thousands)

Budget Items	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Estimate <sup>i</sup>	FY 2008 Request	Increase/ (Decrease)
State Commission Administrative Grants	\$12,516	\$11,772	\$12,000	\$228

<sup>i</sup>See technical note on page 5 regarding 2007 estimate.

### FY 2008 Request Summary

For FY 2008, the Corporation requests \$12 million for state commission administrative grants.

### About the Program

#### Overview

State service commissions administer approximately three-fourths of AmeriCorps\*State and National grant funds. These administrative grants, which must be matched dollar for dollar, represent half of the operating budgets for many commissions. Commission functions include running grant competitions and monitoring the performance of their sub-grantees. Effective grants oversight by commissions is essential to the integrity of the AmeriCorps\*State and National program.

Section 501(a)(4) of the National and Community Service Act calls for state commissions to receive 40 percent of Program Administration funding. However, because the Corporation now receives a separate Salaries and Expenses appropriation, the 40 percent allocation is no longer operative, and the funding level for state commission administrative grants must be specified in appropriations bill language.

The grant funding is allocated according to a population-based formula, with no commission receiving less than \$125,000 or more than \$750,000. The minimum and maximum amounts are specified in the statute.

#### Program Impact and Accomplishments

The Corporation is currently facilitating formation of new commissions in the Northern Marianas Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and South Dakota.

State commissions conduct outreach to prospective AmeriCorps grantees, provide oversight and monitoring of programs, and provide the training and technical assistance necessary to build the capacity of faith and community-based organizations who wish to run AmeriCorps programs. In addition, they are responsible for encouraging national service and volunteerism throughout their respective states by hosting statewide volunteer conferences, coordinating state volunteer training and matching systems and coordinating volunteers responding to disasters. In most cases these commissions are operated by the governor's office.

## Management Improvements

As part of its overall oversight and monitoring strategy, AmeriCorps\*State uses the State Administrative Standards, a comprehensive assessment tool consisting of 60 elements including standards related to planning and assessment, financial systems, financial oversight, monitoring of Corporation sub-grantees, and management of staff and board resources.

The Administrative Standards tool was applied to all 52 commissions between 1999 and 2004.

In FY 2004, the Corporation began using a risk-based process for determining which commissions would receive a review during the fiscal year. Further, the Standards tool has been updated based on lessons learned in the first round of reviews. It is now even more effective at identifying areas for improvement in commission systems and determining training and technical assistance needs.

## Performance Plan

**Table 32: State Commission Administrative Grants key performance measures**

Initiative/Goal	Measure		FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2010
<b>Corporation Goals</b>								
1. Achieve Management Excellence	(Outcome) Percentage of grantees/ sub-grantees meeting or on track to meet their community impact goals	Target	Measure under development					
		Actual	Measure under development					
2. Achieve Management Excellence	(Outcome) Percent of AmeriCorps*State members who rate their service experience as excellent or good. <sup>i</sup>	Target	N/A	N/A	91%	91%	91%	91%
		Actual	90.0% (49% Excel., 41% Good)	91.0% (57% Excel., 34% Good)	91.7% (56% Excel., 35% Good)	—	—	—
3. Achieve Management Excellence	(Outcome) Percent of incurred costs disallowed as a result of OIG audits of State commissions	Target	N/A	N/A	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
		Actual	0.35%	0.20%	0.53%	—	—	—

<sup>i</sup>The FY 2004 result includes just State members. The FY 2005 results include both State and National programs.

Table 33: Projected allocations for FY 2007 and FY 2008

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
New Budget Authority	\$11,929,206	\$11,904,000	\$12,516,000	\$11,772,000	\$12,000,000
Carryover+Recovered Prior FFY	2,964,373	1,325,230	1,299,000	2,271,000	728,596
Total Available Funding	14,893,579	13,229,230	13,815,000	14,043,000	12,728,596
Funding Allocated <sup>i</sup>	14,618,238	13,135,257	13,814,998	13,814,998	12,728,596
Total Awards (Actual or Projected) <sup>i</sup>	13,666,321	11,929,929	11,544,000	13,314,404	12,728,596
Unobligated BA	1,227,258	1,299,301	2,271,000	728,596	—

<sup>i</sup>Based on data as of January 24, 2007.

## Evaluation Plan

### State Performance Reports

In the *State Performance Reports*, the Corporation reports disaggregated performance data at the state level. The biennial report includes multiple years of historical data, allowing trends in funding and performance to be tracked.

### National AmeriCorps Member Satisfaction Data

The Corporation collects national data on AmeriCorps member satisfaction that can be disaggregated by program at the state level. The data will include: 1) members' level of overall satisfaction with their AmeriCorps experience; 2) their satisfaction with Corporation-sponsored and program/project training; 3) their satisfaction with the supervision and support they receive; and 4) their satisfaction with their benefits. We are moving aggressively to produce this data as a key program improvement tool.